



# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

## GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: Second Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 p.m. in place of the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the First Tuesday of each month.

## 2015 PUBLIC SERVICE

Interested in helping? Visit [www.rars.org/public-service.php](http://www.rars.org/public-service.php) for more information.

### RARS General Meeting

Topic: World Radiosport Team Championship, that was held July 8-14, 2014 presented by Nate Moreschi, N4YDU, President of PVRC-NC.

Date: January 13, 2015

Time: Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Informal gathering and refreshments from 7 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church. 2011 Ridge Rd. Raleigh.

### Message From the President

**We are a "society."** One of the definitions in the dictionary is, "... the association of persons for common ends" and that's not much different than a "club," but I think it implies a bit more. Our objective as stated in our Bylaws is: "... education and public service."

**Thanks.** A society is built on its forebears. Last year CJ, NC4CJ, as President, and the Board as well as many unsung participants took up a responsibility and made the effort to make 2014 a success for RARS. We stand on their shoulders and we appreciate all that they have done.

**Who are you?** I am not proud to say this, but even after being a member of RARS for about 3 years, there are a whole bunch of people who come to the member meetings who I don't know. There may be others who are in the same boat. At this point, I am kind of embarrassed to tell people I don't know their name. I think it would add value to our society if we knew each other's name. I wear my badge to every meeting – I want you to know who I am. I would like to know who you are. I suggest you wear your badge, or get a name tag at our sign-in table. As a member, your name tag color will be red.

continued on page 3

## RARS Officers

### PRESIDENT

Murray Merner  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

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N4TL  
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## The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org))

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## Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor ([editor@rars.org](mailto:editor@rars.org))

## For Your Information

### RARS General Meeting

Date: Second Tuesday of each month

Location: Ridge Road Baptist Church

2011 Ridge Road

Raleigh, NC, 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m.

The meeting officially begins  
at 7:30 p.m.

### RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the first Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, nonmembers, friends, and family. Feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for details on the next dinner's location.

### RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

### VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing in February, May, August and November at 5:30PM, prior to RARS membership meetings at Ridge Road Baptist Church; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your original and a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any valid CSCEs that prove passing elements beyond that of your current license. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.

## Message From the President

Continued from page 1

The color for New Members is blue and the color for Visitors is green. Our new sign-in sheet helps us keep track of this – please be attentive to how you fill it out.

**Make them feel welcome.** As a society, those who have an interest in our society should feel welcome. If someone has that blue or green name tag, talk to them, invite them to join your conversations, get to know them.

**Get involved.** A society should accomplish something. RARS offers a multitude of opportunities to have fun and service with radio - Public Service, NC QSO Party, RARSfest, and Field Day to name a few obvious ones. These projects need you. Usually it only takes a little bit of time and effort to make a big difference. We are going to have a major effort to acquaint Scouts with Amateur Radio. Merit badge counselors, operators for JOTA, operators at "camporees," speakers for Scout meetings will be needed. From Tech to Extra, from "Newbie" to OM, you can help.

**Let us know what you know?** A society benefits from what its members know. Every member meeting has a program that is arranged by our Vice President Tom Lewis, N4TL. The programs are to expand our knowledge about and utilization of Amateur Radio in one way or another. If you have an interest or expertise let Tom know about it so he can have you do a presentation. The presentation doesn't have to be "Hollywood perfect" and Tom can give you some hints and help.

Amateur Radio, pass it on.  
Murray, K4MHM

## Future RARS 2015 Meeting Topics

February 10, "How Antennas Radiate"

Dan, WY3O, head of NCSU Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

March 10, Awards, Birthday Party, RARSfest Update.

April 14, The Elecraft KX3 Transceiver. Bert Michaud, N4CW

May 12, What is EMC and Why It Is Important for Radio Operators Jay Diepenbrock (KM4EP) with input from Dr. Bruce Archambeault

June 9, Field Day update.

Titles, topics, and speakers subject to change.

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## 2015 Hamfests & Conventions

Winston Salem, Date: Jan. 10,  
Location: Winston-Salem, NC  
Website: <http://www.w4nc.com/>

Richmond, Date: Feb. 7  
Location: Richmond, VA  
Website: <http://www.frostfest.com>

Charlotte, Date: Mar. 13/14  
Location: Concord, NC  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

North Carolina State Convention  
(43rd Annual RARSfest) | Apr. 4  
Location: Raleigh, NC  
Website: <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>

## New RARS members

John Baker III	KM4FSW
Billy Goldston Sr	KM4GDO
Stew Satterwhite	KM4GDP
James Milko	KM4GDQ
Smitty Nash	K4ACS

## January Birthdays

Russell	KM4DVD	01/01
Ken	KK4YAF	01/01
Grady	AJ4YA	01/01
Bob	N4GEB	01/01
Barry	KK4NUN	01/03
Howard	KI4GNB	01/03
Jesse	AF4JB	01/03
John	WB4DDK	01/04
Jerry	KE4TTS	01/04
Chuck	K4HF	01/04
Billy	KM4GDO	01/05
Chester	KK4YAP	01/06
John	N4YRD	01/08
Richard	N1FUA	01/09
Stephen	KM4DVF	01/09
Jim	N4CAE	01/09
Beth	KF4QMR	01/09
Paul	KE4TMN	01/10
Dan	WY3O	01/11
Jim	KI4NQU	01/11
Bill	KI4BKF	01/15
Charles	KK4UHD	01/16
Billy	KE4VNC	01/16
Wil	KK4MOZ	01/17
Marc	W4MPS	01/19
Jim	KJ4BYN	01/22
Kirk	KK4JDD	01/23
Jim	KM4DCJ	01/25
Matthew	KM4AMQ	01/25
John	KM4FSW	01/26
Amara	KF6TEJ	01/27
Henry	AE4MX	01/27
Alan	AB4OZ	01/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	01/30
Tom	K2UCU	01/31

### Upcoming contests

There are many contests each month. Here are a few of the popular ones.

January  
NA QSO Party CW  
ARRL January VHF  
CQ160 CW  
CQ WPX RTTY  
ARRL DX CW  
CQ160 SSB

March  
NA QSO Party  
1500Z (10 am EST) Sunday,  
March 1, 2015 to 0100Z  
(8pm EST)

more information is located at  
these websites.

[www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)  
[www.hornucopia.com](http://www.hornucopia.com)  
[www.rars.org/ncqsoparty](http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty)

### DX information for January 2015

The DX Magazine lists Navassa Island as the second most wanted DX entity in their last survey. North Korea is the most wanted. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service controls the access to Navassa island. They are going to allow a group of amateurs to operate from Navassa in January of 2015. The call K1N will be used. For more information go to <http://www.navassadx.com/>.

Information on the ARRL's DXCC can be found here.  
<http://www.arrl.org/dxcc>

During the December regular RARS meeting Cluck Littlewood, K4HF did the installation of officers. Below is a picture of the officers that were present.



From left to right: Marty Young, W4MY, NC QSO Party Chair; Joanne Mars, AK4RJ, Food Service Chair; Murray Merner, K4MHM, President and Education Director; Bill Mars, AK4BL, At-Large Director; Karl Bowman, W4CHX, FM Repeater Chair; Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, ARRL Liaison.

## LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NETS

The **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net** meets weekly each Sunday at 9 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' disaster relief efforts. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater for the **Central Carolina SKYWARN** net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

The **Ham Public Service Net** meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and provides a forum and discussion platform for area clubs and individual hams to connect with and learn from other local hams who are interested in Ham Public Service. The HPSN is utilizing the Carolina 440 UHF Link System. The repeaters are also accessible through IRLP Reflector 9210, node 4270. The Ham Public Service North Carolina Yahoo Groups address is: [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hpsnc](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hpsnc).

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets daily at 9 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 repeater at 8:00 p.m.

Join us every evening at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).

## LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NETS continued

The **Wake County AUXCOMM Training Net** meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. on the 146.88 repeater. This net provides amateur radio operators information and training related to emergency communications and for our served agencies, such as Wake County Emergency Management. Please join us. For more information please visit [www.wake.nc.auxcomm.us](http://www.wake.nc.auxcomm.us)

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By Murray Merner, K4MHM  
RARS President

### A Yen to Teach?

RARS is looking for an additional instructor. Since we now have courses at the three license levels and have them most of the year, we need some help with the Technician Course. Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ, has developed the courses using MS PowerPoint. The material covers everything in the manual and the exam. We do not “teach the exam”, but we do answer questions about it and help students prepare for it. The Technician Course is four sessions from 8:00 to 12:30 on successive Saturdays with an exam in the afternoon of the last session. If you have ever thought about teaching a course here is one that is ready to go. You can observe Mike during the next Technician Course and see how he does it. If you have an interest, contact Murray Merner, K4MHM, at: [k4mhm @ arrl.net](mailto:k4mhm@arrl.net).

### Elmers and the New Ham Meeting

Still having some hesitation about amateur radio? Getting started is sometimes difficult because you don't know all the ins-and-outs. Talking with an Elmer or attending our New Ham Meeting at 6:00 before the Member Meeting can help you sort things out. The RARS website has a list of Elmers who can work with you one-on-one or the New Ham Meeting is a place for you to meet other new hams and Elmers. If you have a particular interest or difficulty you can let me know and I can share that with the Elmers as a group or we can bring it up at the New Ham Meeting. You can contact Murray Merner, K4MHM, at: [k4mhm @ arrl.net](mailto:k4mhm@arrl.net).

### The Technician Class Course

The course has been scheduled for: Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14. These sessions will go from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and there will be an exam session in the afternoon of the last session. Pre-registration can be done by e-mailing Murray Merner, K4MHM, at: [k4mhm @ arrl.net](mailto:k4mhm@arrl.net). We are working on a schedule for the other two courses.

## ARRL Newsletters

by Karl Bowman, W4CHX  
ARRL NC Section Manager

One of my responsibilities as the ARRL NC Section Manager is to prepare and distribute the NC Section Newsletter once monthly. The NC Section Newsletter provides information and updates about various ARRL matters; and, announcements about upcoming events and activities in the NC Section. Regular monthly features that are focused on the NC Section include reports on licensing classes, media hits; the NTS traffic report, Silent Keys, upcoming special event stations, and upcoming hamfests. In some months, NC Section email messaging may be used to communicate information on urgent or time-dependent topics.

The various ARRL Newsletters and emails are sent to the ARRL members that have signed up for them on their myARRL account at the ARRL website. There is the NC Section Newsletter and many other newsletters that are available to them as a benefit of their ARRL membership. If you are interested in subscribing to any of the NC Section, Roanoke Division, and/or ARRL newsletters, the rest of this article will provide guidance on setting up your

subscription(s).

Go to the ARRL website, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and log into your account. Once that has been done, "Hello [your name]" will appear in yellow just to the right of the ARRL logo. Click on [your name] --> go to [your page], on the left side of [your page], click on myARRL --> go to Edit Your Profile --> in the top center of that page, click on Edit Email Subscriptions --> go to Email Subscriptions page, scroll down the page, and click/check the box, "News and information from your Division Director and Section Manager." You will start receiving the NC Section Newsletter, NC Section email communications, and communications from the Roanoke Division leaders, Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, Director and Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, Vice Director. Don't forget to Save your changes!

While you are on the Edit Email Subscriptions page, please note the many email subscriptions that are available to ARRL members, including: notification of expiration of your ARRL membership and/or your amateur radio license; notification of monthly digital edition of QST; The ARRL Letter sent by email; special interest email communications on contesting, ARES, ARRL Club

News, ARRL

Instructor/Teacher E-Letter, IARU E-Letter, and/or ARRL Legislative Update; Publications announcements and special offers; ARRL Board meeting agendas and minutes; and, the W1AW Bulletins on General/Special, DX, Propagation, Satellite, and Keplerian topics. If you would like any, or all, of these email communications sent to you, just click/check the box next to each newsletter. Don't forget to Save your changes!

Finally, don't forget to review and update your personal information and permissions, which can be done by clicking on the Edit Account and Edit Profile buttons. These buttons are located just to the left of the Edit Email Subscriptions button. Don't forget to Save your changes!

Thanks for all that you are doing for amateur radio and your community! Happy New Year and 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell), [w4chx at arrl dot org](mailto:w4chx@arrl.org)

## **All About the RARS e-mail Reflector (Subscription requested)**

By Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Treasurer

What is an e-mail reflector? An e-mail reflector is a program that forwards e-mail messages to the names on a distribution list.

1. One member of the distribution list composes an e-mail message or replies to an e-mail message.
2. The user sends the message to the e-mail reflector, which to the user appears to be the list itself.
3. The e-mail reflector receives the message and automatically forwards a copy to each person on the distribution list. For example, an email sent to rars-l@lists.deltaforce.net is automatically forwarded to all RARS members that have subscribed to the list.

The RARS email reflector is a place where Club members can discuss matters concerning amateur radio. Over the past 5 years there has been an average of 4 emails per week that have been forwarded by the RARS e-mail reflector. Message topics include:

- 1) reminders about upcoming meetings;
- 2) request for help – help installing an antenna, help finding someone to repair a radio;
- 3) RARSFest;
- 4) Field Day;
- 5) Elmer request.

A subscriber to the list can receive emails as they are sent, or they can select to receive a digest message, which is one e-mail per day including all emails sent to the reflector that day.

There are about 130 RARS members that have subscribed to the RARS e-mail reflector, and it is recommended that each RARS member subscribe to the rars-l reflector.

Members can subscribe to the rars-l reflector via the following link:

<http://lists.deltaforce.net/mailman/listinfo/rars-l>

After subscribing you will also have access to the message archives for the past several years.

Take a moment and subscribe to the RARS e-mail reflector, or review your current subscription and e-mail address.

The RARS reflector can also be accessed by first going to <http://www.rars.org>

Click on left side box that is third from the bottom.

Prior to 2015, the RARS list servers were on rtpnet.org.

They have been moved to lists.deltaforce.net.

The new RARS reflector address is rars-l@lists.deltaforce.net

**MINUTES**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Raleigh Amateur Radio Society**  
**December 09, 2014**

1. Call to order: C.J. NC4CJ called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.  
There were 32 people in attendance
2. Approval of minutes. The minutes of the general membership meetings of November 11, 2014 were approved as presented.
3. Secretary's report (Bob K4YXM) no report
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS currently has 340 members. If anyone has any questions regarding assets and liabilities, please contact Greg KE4PAX or C.J. NC4CJ for additional information.
5. The following guests were introduced. Smithy K4ACS, Amanda xyl of KM4CSH, Lucinda xyl of K4YXM, Kay xyl of KI4OTO
6. Reports and announcements from RARS Board members and others:
  - a. ARRL NC Section Chief: Karl W4CHX presented David KF4VXJ a certificate and thanked him for his work in providing data for ARRL propagation reports.
7. Installation of new RARS Board members: Chuck K4HF introduced new members of the RARS Board and led a short installation ceremony.
8. Gift Raffle: Winners were Amanda (xyl of KM4CSH) and Bob W4TTX
9. C.J. NC4CJ reminded people that RARS is donating to the USMC "Toys for Tots" program and asked that people donate.
10. C.J. NC4CJ then thanked everyone for their support during the previous year helping make RARS successful.
11. Murray K4MHM (incoming RARS president) remarked on all the people it took to make RARS the successful club it is today.
12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 PM so everyone could enjoy the food and each other's company.

### **ARRL Centennial QSO Party**

Did you achieve Worked All States (WAS) or the Triple Play Award during the ARRL's Centennial QSO Party in 2014? If you did, please send an email to your editor at [N4TL2@yahoo.com](mailto:N4TL2@yahoo.com). I will publish a list in next month's Exciter. There is a log deadline for the this QSO Party of January 15. Make sure you have your log uploaded to LoTW by then. For more in formation on the two awards and LoTW go to these websites.

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
[www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party](http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party)